

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS-SOARES AND CUNHAL

1. BELGIAN MASS CIRCULATION INDEPENDENT DAILY LE SOIR CARRIES EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS BETWEEN SOCIALIST LEADER SOARES, COMMUNIST LEADER CUNHAL AND ITS SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT COLETTE BRAECKMAN IN A FEBRUARY 4 EDITION (WHICH APPEARED LATE AFTER-NOON FEBRUARY 3). FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF QUESTIONS POSED AND ANSWERS PROVIDED IN EMBASSY TRANSLATION.

2. QUESTION: ARE YOU FAVORABLE TO HAVING ELECTIONS WITHIN TWO MONTHS? SOARES: ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE BEFORE APRIL 25. PREPARATORY WORK IS GOING ON AND VOTING LISTS ARE BEING DRAWN UP. THERE WILL BE SIX MILLION ELECTORS OUT OF A POPULATION OF 8.5 MILLION, BEFOREHAND THERE WERE ONLY 1.8 MILLION ELECTORS. THE PCP AND THE PARTIES WHICH IT CONTROLS HAVE CARRIED ON PROPAGANDA AGAINST THESE ELECTIONS SAYING THAT THE PORTUGUESE PEOPLE ARE NOT READY TO VOTE. THIS IS STRANGELY SIMILAR TO WHAT CAETANO USED TO SAY. CUNHAL: ELECTIONS WILL TAKE PLACE AND WE ARE FOR THEM. THERE MAY BE A SHORT DELAY FOR TECHNICAL NOT OTHER REASONS. HOWEVER, UNCLASSIFIED

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THERE ARE SITUATIONS PRESENT WHICH COULD RESULT IN PARTIALLY

FALSE RESULTS. THERE ARE REGIONS OF THE COUNTRY WHERE APRIL 27 HAS NOT YET ARRIVED, WHERE LIBERTY HAS NOT YET BEEN INSTALLED, AND WHERE THERE IS NO GUARANTEE AS TO THE HONESTY OF THE ELECTIONS. WE CANNOT CONSIDER FREE ELECTIONS VOTING BY PORTUGUESE EMIGRES IN COUNTRIES SUCH AS BRAZIL AND THE USA WHERE THE GOVERNMENTS HAVE REFUSED ENTRY TO A MEMBER OF OUR PARTY. DEMOCRATS CONSIDER THAT SITUATIONS SUCH AS THOSE ABOVE WOULD NOT PERMIT FREE ELECTIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT CAN BE FORESEEN THAT THE THREE COALITION PARTIES WILL HAVE A LARGE MAJORITY OF THE SEATS.

3. QUESTION: HOW DO YOU ENVISAGE THE ROLE OF THE AFM IN POLITICAL LIFE? SOARES: WE AFFIRM THE NECESSITY OF UNITY BETWEEN THE AFM AND THE THREE COALITION PARTIES. THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE AFM APPEARS TO ME TO BE NECESSARY. HOWEVER, THE PCP HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE AFM BE REPRESENTED IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WITHOUT HAVING THOSE MEMBERS ELECTED. WE ARE OPPOSED TO THIS IDEA. CUNHAL: THE AFM MUST NOT RETURN TO ITS BARRACKS. IT MUST CONTINUE TO PLAY ITS ROLE AT THE SIDE OF THE PEOPLE FOR THE DEFENSE AND CONSTRUCTION OF A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY.

4. QUESTION: WHY THE A PROPOSED LAW ON A UNIFIED LABOR MOVEMENT? SOARES: WE WANT THE UNITY OF THE WORKERS, BUT THIS SHOULD BE THE RESULT OF THEIR OWN WISHES. WE OPPOSED THE PROPOSED LAW, BUT MANAGED TO INTRODUCE NUMEROUS DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES INTO ITS TEXT. CUNHAL: WITH PLURALISM THE WORKERS WOULD NOT BE FREE TO CONTROL THEIR UNIONS, THESE WOULD BE STRICTLY CONTROLLED AND TAKE ON POINTS OF VIEWS COMING FROM THE OUTSIDE; UNITY GUARDS THE COMPLETE LIBERTY OF EACH UNION.

5. QUESTION: WHAT ARE THE PRINCIPAL POINTS OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PSB AND PCB? SOARES: WE SUSPECT THE PCB OF NOT WISHING TO PLAY THE DEMOCRATIC GAME WITH ALL THAT IMPLIES. THE COMMUNISTS BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A SORT OF METAPHYSICAL IDENTIFICATION BETWEEN THEIR PARTY AND THE PEOPLE-THAT IS WHY THE PCB TENDS TO BELIEVE THAT IT DOES NOT NEED TO CONSULT POPULAR WISHES. AS TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE, WE KNOW THAT THIS SECURITY SYSTEM IS NOT IDEAL. HOWEVER, AS LONG AS THE WARSAW PACT FACES US, WE MUST KEEP PORTUGAL IN THE ALLIANCE.

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CUNHAL: THE INCREASING DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PARTIES IS THE RESULT OF SERIOUS SLIDE TO THE RIGHT BY THE PSB WHICH IS TURNING TOWARD ANTI-COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA AND TOWARD THE IDEA THAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY IS ITS PRINCIPAL ENEMY. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO INSTALL DEMOCRACY HERE WITHOUT THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND EVEN LESS TO BE AGAINST IT.

6. QUESTION: WHAT CONCLUSIONS MUST BE DRAWN BY YOUR RESPEC-

TIVE VISITS TO THE USA AND TO THE USSR? SOARES: TO MAKE POLITICAL DEMOCRACY FUNCTION A MINIMUM OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY IS NECESSARY. WE BELIEVE THAT THE US SHOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THE RE-LAUNCHING OF OUR ECONOMY. HOWEVER, ANY POLITICAL CONDITIONS ATTACHED TO THIS TO ASSISTANCE IS UNTHINKABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE. CUNHAL: IT IS SAID THAT THE QUARREL WITH THE SOCIALISTS BECAME WORSE AFTER MY VOYAGE TO MOSCOW. IF THE PCB TONE HAS HARDENED, IT IS ONLY BECAUSE OF THE ANTI-COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN BY THE PSB.

7. QUESTION: IS DEMOCRACY POSSIBLE IN PORTUGAL? SOARES: OUR PARTY LEANS TOWARD THE UNION OF THE LEFT BECAUSE PLURALIST DEMOCRACY IS NOT POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE COMMUNIST PARTY. WE HAVE STRONGLY CRITICIZED THE PCB, BUT WE DO NOT WISH TO HAVE A BREAK WITH THE COMMUNISTS AND WE DO NOT WISH TO BE INTIMIDATED BY THEM. CUNHAL: DEMOCRACY WILL NOT BE A WEST EUROPEAN TYPE OF PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY NOR A "PEOPLE'S DEMOCRACY". THE SOLUTIONS MUST CORRESPOND TO OUR REALITY. WE WILL HAVE A PORTUGUESE DEMOCRACY. RENNER

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